

Minutes – 8/24/10 meeting

In Attendance: Bill Seiple, Rian Wilkinson, Dave Leys, Shawn Brown, Tom O'loughlin, Frank Bozyan, Ed Silveria, Steve Ponte, Theresa Santos

1- The minutes from the 7/13/10 Beach Commission meeting were approved.

2- Second Beach Campground- Approx. 20 campground renters were present at the meeting. Major concerns were the 2011 rate increase and proposed improvements. Rates - Mr Fazzio, a camper, spoke concerning the 25% increase..2011. He felt it was unfair to have such a large increase, since many campers were on a fixed income and were long-time renters. He asked if the Beach Comm. had approved the increases. Rian replied that we had not, but it was on the June agenda. Mr Brown was unable to attend due to an unexpected commitment...Rian also noted that the town was relying, heavily, on increased beach and campground revenue to hold the tax increase to a minimum. All beach and mooring fees were, also, increased for fiscal 2011. Any decrease in fees would result in budget cuts or increases in other areas. It was suggested that the campers could readdress the town council about the increases. Mr. Silveria, a councilman, said he would probably not vote for reduced camp fees.

Comparable campground sites- Tim Shaw handed out comparison rate sheets for Second Beach and Cape Cod sites. The range was from \$4200 to \$8750 for a premium site. Second Beach - \$4762.00.

The proximity to Second Beach and a major resort area makes this a very desirable camp site.

Site improvements- Rian accepted a recommendation sheet, eleven items, from the campers. Suggestions ranged from bathroom updates, wi-fi, new swings, staggered payments, and a longer season. A motion was made to immediately forward the list to the town council. However, the motion was not seconded. Bill S suggested that all recommendations be placed on the 2011 Beach Commission “project list” ...as all beach proposals are. They will be prioritized and cost estimates determined.

Rian, Mr. Bozyan and Mr. Silveria agreed to visit the campground on Aug 25, for a tour, a revised list will be forwarded to the Beach Comm---Sept 14th meeting.

Conclusions- there are obviously, improvements that can be made to upgrade the campground by next spring. However, the seasonal rate issue, since it affects taxes, is a council matter. It was suggested that the campground representatives appear before the council with their concerns.

3- Boat Ramp- Rian, Tom O', Steve P, Warren H and Tom Newman met with DEM officials . (Najir Lazar, Larry Mouradjian) concerning replacing the existing boat ramp at Third Beach They reported that there are “study funds” and, possible, replacement funds for the ramp. They strongly recommend using the present site and leaving the existing ramp in place due to the cost of removal. It could, also, be used as a handi-cap ramp and a “walk down” ramp for kayaks and small boats. The town will be in contact with DEM this fall to get the

process in motion.

4- Beach operation. This season has been one of the hottest and busiest in history. However, the beach has been running very smoothly even with the record crowds. Early planning, plus an experienced and dedicated staff have resulted in an efficient team effort. Bill S. also noted that the town has spent significant amounts of money on improving the beach over the last 10 years. These improvements have resulted in larger daily crowds and the town should continue to, strongly, fund the town's beaches.

5- HarborMaster- Steve P. reported that the Third Beach has been very busy. He has assisted numerous boaters, kayakers, and helped regulate the entire waterfront. Also, the town moorings have been in demand and the harbor is becoming a popular destination site. A new harbor buoy plan has been initiated and will be completed in the spring.

New Business

1- Dune program. St George's , again, will assist in the on-going dune conservation program, as well as, other beach projects. The DPW will inventory the available snow fence.

2- Fall activities. Tim Shaw reported that there will be a summer and Thanksgiving bon fire. Also, the 3rd annual one mile swim, a first time triathlon, and the annual Camp-O-Rama.

Meeting adjourned 6:40